

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16, 18 - 19 and 20-31 remain in the application. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice. New claims 20-31 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of each of the pending claims.

Certain terms in the disclosure are objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended the specification for clarifying those informalities. For example, in the summary, the "shift registers" has been replaced with "shift register stages" in order to more accurately describe the embodiments of the present invention.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's advice with regard to the allowable subject matters in claims 1 - 15 and 17 - 19. The office action provides that claims 2 -15 and 17 - 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It further provides that claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The amended claim 1 is directed to a bi-directional shift controller operable to receive an input from either of two shift register stages. In the amended claim 1, the term "shift register" has been replaced with "shift register stage," in light of the suggestion by the Examiner. The amended claim 1, read in conjunction with the specification, describes the present invention in a way that enables a person skilled in the art to make or use of this invention.

Amendments have been made to provide claims 2 -19 with a clear antecedent basis for terms used therein, and correct certain informalities with regard to punctuations and usage of abbreviations.

As such, the amended independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2 - 15 overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and are now in a condition for allowance.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,417 to Kelem (hereinafter referred to as "Kelem").


Claim 17 is now cancelled and the independent claim 16 has been amended to include all of the limitations set forth in its dependent claim 17. As mentioned above, claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim, i.e. claim 16, and any intervening claims. As such, the amended claim 16 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, amended claims 18 and 19 and added claims 20 - 31, which depend on the amended independent claim 16, are also in condition of allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this application in an allowable form. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are drawn to a novel subject matter, patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore, respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Should the Examiner deem that any further clarification is desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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